

Palm/Passion Sunday

Sunday, March 29, 2026

10:30 a.m. Worship

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

215 N. Warren St.

Orwigsburg, PA

570-366-2316

www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org

GATHERING

PRELUDE

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

D. Wood

OPENING PROCLAMATION

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” ⁴This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

⁵“Tell the daughter of Zion,

Look, your king is coming to you,

humble, and mounted on a donkey,

and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?”

¹¹The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

(Matthew 21:1-11)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE BLESSING OF THE PALMS

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed Messiah and King by those who spread garments and branches along his way.

[Please lift your palms.] Bless these palms and those who lift them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

“The Palms”

J. Faure

1. O'er all the way green palms and blossoms gay
Are strewn this day in festive preparation,
Where Jesus comes, to wipe our tears away,
E'en now the throng to welcome Him prepare.

Refrain:

Join all and sing His name declare,
Let ev'ry voice resound with acclamation,
Hosanna! Praised be the Lord!
Bless Him, who cometh to bring us salvation!

2. His word goes forth, and people by its might
Once more their freedom gain from degradation,
Humanity doth give to each his right,
While those in darkness find restored the light. *[Refrain]*

3. Sing and rejoice, O blest Jerusalem,
Of all thy sons sing the emancipation,
Thro' boundless love, the Christ of Bethlehem
Brings faith the hope to thee forevermore. *[Refrain]*

CLOSING PROCLAMATION

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

As we now enter into the contemplation of the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ and meditate on the salvation of the world, let us pray.

Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

[We will gather our children for Sunday School at this time.]

WORD

A READING FROM ISAIAH

⁴The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens— wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. ⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. ⁶I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. ⁷The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; ⁸he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. ⁹It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

(Isaiah 50:4-9a)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 31:9-16 (Read responsively)

⁹Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble;

my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.

¹⁰**For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing;**

my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.

¹¹I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors,

a dismay to my acquaintances;

when they see me in the street, they avoid me.

¹²**Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind;**

I am as useless as a broken pot.

¹³For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around;

they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.

¹⁴**But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD.**

I have said, “You are my God.

¹⁵My times are in your hand;

rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

¹⁶**Let your face shine upon your servant;**

save me in your steadfast love.”

A READING FROM PHILIPPIANS

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:5-11)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL

The Passion of Our Lord according to St. Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

(The Congregation may be seated.)

On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying,

CONGREGATION (AS DISCIPLES): “Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?”

NARRATOR: Jesus said,

JESUS: "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, “My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.’ ”

NARRATOR: So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal. When it was evening, He took His place with the twelve; and while they were eating, He said,

JESUS: "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me."

NARRATOR: And they became greatly distressed and began to say to Him one after another,

CONGREGATION (AS DISCIPLES): "Surely not I, Lord?"

NARRATOR: He answered,

JESUS: "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of Him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born."

NARRATOR: Judas, who betrayed Him, said,

JUDAS: "Surely not I, Rabbi?"

NARRATOR: He replied,

JESUS: "You have said so."

NARRATOR: While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it He broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said,

JESUS: "Take, eat; this is my body."

NARRATOR: Then He took a cup, and after giving thanks He gave it to them, saying,

JESUS: "Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

NARRATOR: When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them,

JESUS: "You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee."

NARRATOR: Peter said to Him,

PETER: "Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you."

NARRATOR: Jesus said to him,

JESUS: "Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times."

NARRATOR: Peter said to Him,

PETER: "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you."

NARRATOR: And so said all the disciples. Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and He said to His disciples,

JESUS: "Sit here while I go over there and pray."

NARRATOR: He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then He said to them,

JESUS: "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me."

NARRATOR: And going a little farther, Jesus threw Himself on the ground and prayed,

JESUS: "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want, but what you want."

NARRATOR: Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and He said to Peter,

JESUS: "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

NARRATOR: Again, He went away for the second time and prayed,

JESUS: "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done."

NARRATOR: Again, He came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So, leaving them again, He went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then He came to the disciples and said to them,

JESUS: "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

NARRATOR: While He was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd, with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying,

JUDAS: "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him."

NARRATOR: At once he came up to Jesus and said,

JUDAS: "Greetings, Rabbi!"

NARRATOR: ...and kissed Him. Jesus said to him,

JESUS: "Friend, do what you are here to do."

NARRATOR: Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested Him. Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to him,

JESUS: "Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?"

NARRATOR: At that hour Jesus said to the crowds,

JESUS: "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled."

NARRATOR: Then all the disciples deserted Him and fled. Those who had arrested Jesus took Him to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered. But Peter was following Him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest; and going inside, he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put Him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last, two came forward and one of them said,

ACCUSER: "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.'"

NARRATOR: The high priest stood up and said,

HIGH PRIEST: "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?"

NARRATOR: But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to Him,

HIGH PRIEST: "I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God."

NARRATOR: Jesus said to him,

JESUS: "You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven."

NARRATOR: Then the high priest tore his clothes and said,

HIGH PRIEST: "He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?"

NARRATOR: They answered,

CONGREGATION (AS CHIEF PRIESTS): "He deserves death."

NARRATOR: Then they spat in His face and struck Him; and some slapped Him, saying,

CONGREGATION (AS CHIEF PRIESTS): "Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?"

NARRATOR: Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to Him and said,

FIRST SERVANT GIRL: "You also were with Jesus the Galilean."

NARRATOR: But he denied it before all of them, saying,

PETER: "I do not know what you are talking about."

NARRATOR: When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw Him, and she said to the bystanders,

SECOND SERVANT GIRL: This man was with Jesus of Nazareth."

NARRATOR: Again, he denied it with an oath,

PETER: "I do not know the man."

NARRATOR: After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter,

CONGREGATION (AS BYSTANDERS): Certainly, you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you."

NARRATOR: Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath,

PETER: "I do not know the man!"

NARRATOR: At that moment the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said:

JESUS: "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times."

NARRATOR: And he went out and wept bitterly. When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about His death. They bound Him, led Him away, and handed Him over to Pilate the governor. When Judas, His betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. He said,

JUDAS: "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood."

NARRATOR: But one said,

CHIEF PRIEST: "What is that to us? See to it yourself."

NARRATOR: Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went and hanged himself. But the chief priests took the pieces of silver; one said,

CHIEF PRIEST: "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money."

NARRATOR: After conferring together, they used them to buy the potter's field as a place to bury foreigners. For this reason, that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one on whom a price had been set, on whom some of the people of Israel had set a price, and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me."

Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked Him,

PILATE: "Are you the King of the Jews?"

NARRATOR: Jesus said,

JESUS: "You say so."

NARRATOR: But when He was accused by the chief priests and elders, He did not answer. Then Pilate said to Him,

PILATE: "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?"

NARRATOR: But He gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to releasing a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time, they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So, after they had gathered, Pilate said to them,

PILATE: "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?"

NARRATOR: For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed Him over. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him,

PILATE'S WIFE: "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about Him."

NARRATOR: Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them,

PILATE: "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?"

NARRATOR: And they said,

CONGREGATION (AS CROWD): "Barabbas."

NARRATOR: Pilate said to them,

PILATE: "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?"

NARRATOR: All of them said,

CONGREGATION (AS CROWD): "Let Him be crucified!"

NARRATOR: Then he asked,

PILATE: "Why, what evil has he done?"

NARRATOR: But they shouted all the more,

CONGREGATION (AS CROWD): "Let Him be crucified!"

NARRATOR: So, when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying,

PILATE: "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves."

NARRATOR: Then the people as a whole answered,

CONGREGATION (AS CROWD): "His blood be on us and on our children!"

NARRATOR: So, he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed Him over to be crucified. Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around Him. They stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on His head. They put a reed in His right hand and knelt before Him and mocked Him, saying,

CONGREGATION (AS SOLDIERS): "Hail, King of the Jews!"

NARRATOR: They spat on Him and took the reed and struck Him on the head. After mocking Him, they stripped Him of the robe and put His own clothes on Him. Then they led Him away to crucify Him. As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry His cross.

And when they came to a place called *Golgotha* (which means Place of a Skull),

(Will the Congregation please stand?)

NARRATOR: they offered Him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when He tasted it, He would not drink it. And when they had crucified Him, they divided His clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over Him. Over His head they put the charge against Him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." Then two bandits were crucified with Him, one on His right and one on His left. Those who passed by derided Him, shaking their heads and saying,

CONGREGATION (AS BY-STANDERS): "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross."

NARRATOR: In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, mocked Him, saying,

CONGREGATION (AS CHIEF PRIESTS): "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. "He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am God's Son.'"

NARRATOR: The bandits who were crucified with Him also taunted Him in the same way. From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice,

JESUS: "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?"

NARRATOR: ...that is,

JESUS: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

NARRATOR: When some of the bystanders heard it, one said,

FIRST BY-STANDER: "This man is calling for Elijah."

NARRATOR: At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to Him to drink. But another said,

SECOND BY-STANDER): "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him."

NARRATOR: Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed His last.

- *Silence* -

At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After His resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. When the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified. The Centurion said,

CENTURION: "Truly this man was God's Son!"

NARRATOR: Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for Him. Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee. When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb. The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said,

CONGREGATION (AS CHIEF PRIESTS): "Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise again.' Therefore, command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people, 'He has been raised from the dead,' and the last deception would be worse than the first."

NARRATOR: Pilate said to them,

PILATE: "You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can."

NARRATOR: So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

(#351)

[See back of bulletin]

THE NICENE CREED (Read in unison)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified,
He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With contrite hearts and confidence in God's steadfast love, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Strengthen us to confess Jesus Christ as Lord, even when the way of the cross unsettles us and challenges our expectations. Daily empower us to proclaim your redeeming love to a world in need. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Open our hearts to cherish all creatures who share our lives: the animals who labor alongside us, those who offer protection and companionship, and those who remind us of your gentle care for all creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Heal the wounds that divide your people and restore those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Draw near to the sick, the injured, the grieving, and especially everyone on our prayer list. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Stand with all who are persecuted for their faith and shield them from harm. Bring peace to places torn by hatred and injustice. May your reconciling love take root in lands long ruled by violence and fear. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Guide and uphold all who serve in worship during this holy week. As we walk the way of the cross, open our minds to your Word, our hearts to your mercy, and our hands to your service. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks for all the saints who lived lives of humble service and courageous love. As you sustained them in their trials, sustain us until the day when you call all your children to your side. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

(The pastor concludes): Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ our strength and salvation. **Amen.**

OFFERING

ANTHEM

"Is This the King"*

J. Martin

OFFERTORY HYMN

"Come to the Table"

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is primarily in the Treble clef, with a supporting bass line in the Bass clef. The lyrics are: "Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread. All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed." The score ends with a fermata over the final note of the melody.

[Continues]

Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re-ceive from his nail - scarred hand.

Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these simple gifts we bring, that all may taste your goodness. Satisfy us with this holy food and drink, and daily stir in us a deeper hunger for justice and peace. This we pray in your holy name. **Amen.**

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and salutary that we should in all times and all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, Holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on the tree of the cross gave salvation to all, that, where death began, there life might be restored, and that he, who by a tree once overcame, might by a tree be overcome. And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, —

heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Bless - ed — is he who comes in the name of the Lord. — Ho-

san - na in — the high - est, ho - san - na in — the high - est.

BLESSING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Read in Unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

Happy are those who are called to his supper.

INSTRUCTIONS

All who are baptized and seek forgiveness of their sins and the promise of eternal life in Jesus Christ are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion by intinction. You may dip a wafer of bread (the Body of Christ) into a chalice of wine (the Blood of Christ) before consuming it. If you require a gluten free wafer, please request it from the pastor.

If you (or your child) would like to receive a blessing rather than the Sacrament, come forward and say, "A blessing," or cross your arms over your chest.

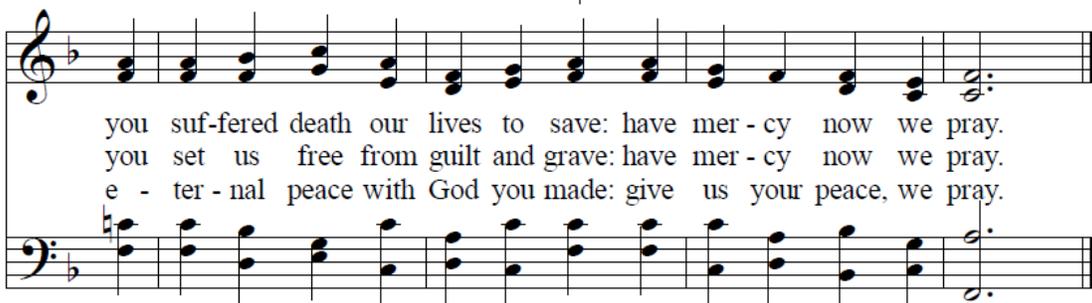
If you are unable to come forward to receive the Sacrament, please raise your hand.

We will share the Sacrament with those on the pulpit side of the nave followed by those on the lectern side.

AGNUS DEI



1. O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2. O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3. O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer - cy now we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer - cy now we pray.
e - ter - nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION HYMN

“Were You There?”
[See back of bulletin]

(#353)

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and as a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

May Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

“Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!”
[See back of bulletin]

(#346)

THE DISMISSAL

Go now in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

"Behold the King"

F. Ritter

Our Liturgy and Music are used by permission through Augsburg Fortress License #20611.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY: Each Sunday is a celebration of Jesus’ death and resurrection, and Palm/Passion Sunday is no exception. Though we remember different moments from Jesus’ life throughout the year, the mystery of Christ’s dying and rising stands at the center of our worship. Nowhere is this mystery held in such vivid tension as on this day. We move from joyful hosannas to the harsh cries of “crucify him,” a shift that mirrors both the paradox of Jesus’ story and the truth of our own human condition. Rather than separating death and resurrection, the church invites us to see them as an inseparable, transforming mystery. No Sunday more clearly reveals both the suffering of Christ and the presence of the risen Lord among us than this one.

***ANTHEM** "Is This the King" is presented in loving memory of Richard Foltz by Margaret Bair and Family. (2016)

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday, March 29

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

Second Sunday

8:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion

9:15 AM Youth Sunday School

10:30 AM Worship with Holy Communion

Children's Sunday School

NOON - 2:00PM Easter Egg-stravaganza

Crafters' Guild Open House in the basement

Wednesday, April 1

6:00 PM Bell Choir

7:00 PM Chancel Choir

Thursday, April 2

MAUNDY THURSDAY

7:00 PM Worship with Holy Communion

Friday, April 3

GOOD FRIDAY

7:00 PM A Tenebrae Service

Saturday, April 4

HOLY SATURDAY

5:30 PM Silent Prayer, Meditation, and Reflection

Sunday, April 5

THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD (EASTER)

8:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion

10:30 AM Worship with Holy Communion

STiC EARTH DAY EVENTS

Bird walks, nature walks, and viewing of the movie, "The Extraordinary Caterpillar" will be featured over the two day "Earth Day" Event beginning at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, April 17 and continuing through Saturday, April 18. Additional information appears on colorful posters on our bulletin boards or talk with Sue Reier (570-617-3741) for more information.

Members are also invited to take part in this special event by bringing an "earthen" element (such as pottery, stone, wood, etc.) or re-usable or re-purposed item (or items) to church beginning Sunday, April 12. These items will be displayed in the gathering room from Friday, April 17 through Sunday, April 19. If you bring an item (or items) please complete a small card (available at the church office) identifying your item, yourself, and anything special that you would like to share. Please mark your calendars as we celebrate God's good creation!

SERVING THIS SUNDAY (3/29/26)

8:00 AM

GREETER: Krista Harding; USHER: Pastor Mike
LECTOR & COMMUNION ASST.: Amy Dewald

10:30 AM

GREETER: Tina Butler; USHER: Madelyn Knecht; LECTOR: Deb O'Connor
COMMUNION ASST.: Doug Travor
ALTAR GUILD: Joanne Emerich and Gwen Wehr
COUNTERS: Connie Teter, Barb Sterner, and Glenda Bright

SERVING MAUNDY THURSDAY (4/02/26 at 7:00 PM)

GREETER: TBA; LECTOR: Amy Dewald

USHERS: Jeff Ritschel

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Connie Teter

ALTAR GUILD: Crystal Brensinger and Cindy Ritschel

SERVING GOOD FRIDAY (4/03/26 at 7:00 PM)

GREETER: TBA; USHER: Connie Teter; Lector: Pastor Mike

ALTAR GUILD: Crystal Brensinger and Cindy Ritschel

SERVING EASTER SUNDAY (4/05/26)

8:00 AM

GREETER: Krista Harding; USHER: Pastor Mike

LECTOR/COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Kay Weidensaul

10:30 AM

GREETER: Sarah Eger; USHERS: Tina Butler, Elinda Lado, and Mike Lado

LECTOR: Tina Butler; COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Deb O'Connor

ALTAR GUILD: Barbara Lafko and Amy Dewald

COUNTERS: Glenda Bright and Gwen Wehr

We will not “pass the plate” during today’s worship service. Our offering plate is in the back of the nave near the center aisle. If you would like to give an offering, please do so before the service has begun or after our service is over. Thank you for your generosity and kindness.

The Crafters’ Guild invites you to browse and shop our spring creations in the craft room in the basement. Items will be on display and for sale through Mother’s Day. Money for purchases should be placed in the Crafters’ Guild mailbox near the church office. Come see our creativity “in bloom”.

HYMN OF THE DAY "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

1 O sa - cred head, now wound - ed, with grief and shame weighed down,
2 How pale thou art with an - guish, with sore a - buse and scorn;
3 What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear - est friend,
4 Lord, be my con - so - la - tion; shield me when I must die;

now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly crown;
how does thy face now lan - guish, which once was bright as morn!
for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y with - out end?
re - mind me of thy pas - sion when my last hour draws nigh.

O sa - cred head, what glo - ry, what bliss till now was thine!
Thy grief and bit - ter pas - sion were all for sin - ners' gain;
Oh, make me thine for - ev - er, and should I faint - ing be,
These eyes, new faith re - ceiv - ing, from thee shall nev - er move;

Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call thee mine.
mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, but thine the dead - ly pain.
Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.
for all who die be - liev - ing die safe - ly in thy love.

ADULT FORUM

Adult Forum will not meet on Easter Sunday, April 5. We will resume our studies on the following Sunday, April 12.

COMMUNION HYMN

“Were You There?”

1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you there?
2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
3 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
4 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
5 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you there?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?

Refrain

Oh, some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you there?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?

SENDING HYMN

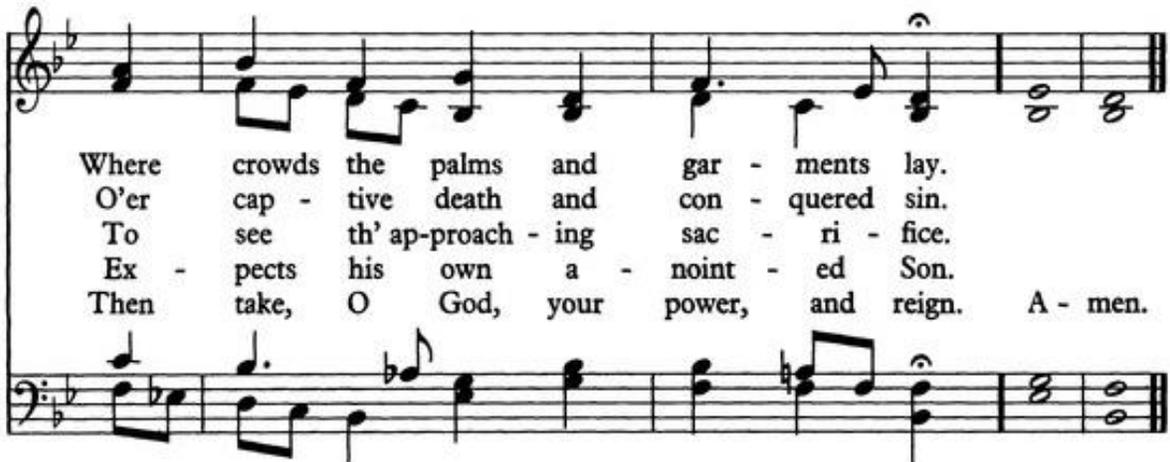
“Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!”



1. Ride on! Ride on in maj - es - ty! Hark! all the tribes ho -
2. Ride on! Ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly pomp ride
3. Ride on! Ride on in maj - es - ty! The wing - ed squad - rons
4. Ride on! Ride on in maj - es - ty! Your last and fierc - est
5. Ride on! Ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly pomp ride



san - na cry; Your hum - ble beast pur - sues his way
on to die; O Christ, your tri - umphs now be - gin
of the sky Look down with sad and won - dering eyes
strife is nigh; The Fa - ther on his sap - phire throne
on to die; Bow your meek head to mor - tal pain,



Where crowds the palms and gar - ments lay.
O'er cap - tive death and con - quered sin.
To see th' ap - proach - ing sac - ri - fice.
Ex - pects his own a - noint - ed Son.
Then take, O God, your power, and reign. A - men.

SUNDAY SCHOOL IS TODAY!

Sunday School for children ages 1 to 10 years old will continue every second Sunday of the month during the 10:30 a.m. service. Please join us TODAY, Sunday, March 29 for Bible stories, crafts, a snack, fun, and fellowship.

You can also call, text, or email me with questions or to volunteer. Sarah Eger: (570) 394-3522 (cell); swoodring86@hotmail.com.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

On Maundy Thursday, April 2, we will gather at 7:00 p.m. to remember Jesus' command to love one another and the events of the Last Supper. This service includes Holy Communion and the solemn stripping of the altar.

On Good Friday, April 3, we will hold a *Tenebrae* (meaning "darkness" or "shadows") service at 7:00 p.m. Through our readings and hymns we recall the sorrow felt by Jesus' followers at his betrayal, trial, and crucifixion. The service concludes in darkness and silence, symbolizing our Lord's burial.

Those who would like to prayerfully meditate and reflect on the events of Holy Week are invited to gather in our nave beginning at 5:30 p.m. on Holy Saturday, April 4. There is no scheduled worship on this date.

Finally, we will celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord on Easter Sunday, April 5, at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. With loud joyful music, alleluias and the sharing of Holy Communion, we proclaim the good news: *Christ is risen. He is risen indeed.*

Join us for these special worship services and invite your friends and neighbors as well!

EASTER EGG-STRAVAGANZA

Our annual "**Easter Egg-stravaganza**" will take **TODAY from 12 noon to 2 p.m.** following Sunday School. Children up to age 10 are welcome to join the fun and fellowship. Please join us in Reidler Hall at any time during the event, to do crafts, play games, and enjoy snacks. This is a community event, so feel free to invite a friend to join in the fun! Sign-up sheets will be in the gathering room, closer to the date of the event.

LOOKING FOR A CHURCH HOME?

Please consider worshiping with us after the holidays. Take a copy of our December newsletter. Check out our webpage. Visit us on Facebook. Watch our weekly video on YouTube. And get to know us better!

We are a Lutheran congregation with a rich tradition, but we are not old-fashioned. Everyone is invited to worship and work together here -- to the glory of God!

WELCA NEWS

A community bus trip to see the Tiffany-stained glass church windows in the Allentown Art Museum has been planned for Saturday, May 2. Details and information are available on the bulletin board in the gathering room. The deadline to sign up is April 1.